



Nez Perce County Newsletter



August 2011

Nez Perce County
USDA Service Center
1630 23rd Ave, Suite
1201
Lewiston, ID 83501
(208) 746-9621
(208)798-3164 fax
www.fsa.usda.gov/id

Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00am – 4:30 pm

County Committee:
Ralph Schwartz,
Chairman
Greg Weber,
Vice-Chairman
Neil Heitstuman,
Member

Staff:
Dale George, CED
Tricia Uhlenkott, PT
Christy Randall, PT
Diana Menzel, PT

Bardell Faux,
FL Manager
Brian Hill,
Farm Loan Officer
Jason Fisher,
Farm Loan Officer
Annette VonBargen,
FL PT

New Continuous Signup CRP Practice Available

CP33 Habitat Buffers for Western Quail Management in Idaho

Apply this practice around the field edges of eligible cropland that is suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of wildlife habitat for primarily California Quail, Ring-Necked Pheasants, Sharp-Tailed Grouse, and other non-game birds.

Size requirements: The minimum average width of a quail and upland bird habitat buffer is 30 feet, with a maximum average width of 120 feet.

A Signup Incentive (SIP) of \$10 per year per acre is available and a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) of an additional 40% of the cost share payment. The practice length is a minimum of 10 years.

NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) provides coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statutes limit NAP coverage to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Application deadlines for 2012 NAP coverage for a Grass Seed or Fall Seeded crops is September 30th.

Producers who already have coverage on 2011 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Beneficial interest means retaining the ability to make decisions about the commodity; responsibility for loss or damage to the commodity; and maintaining title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest.

Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans.

Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may trigger administrative actions, such as assessing liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

The most common violations are removing or disposing of a commodity being used as loan collateral without prior authorization and providing an incorrect quantity certification.

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND/OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

To register your name to receive a claims packet, call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or visit: www.farmerclaims.gov

The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Hispanic and Women Farmers

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

- **Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process, please visit:** www.farmerclaims.gov or call 1-888-508-4429
- **Pigford – The Black Farmers Discrimination Litigation, please visit:** www.blackfarmercase.com or call 1-866-950-5547
- **Keepseagle - The Native American Farmers Class Action Settlement please visit:** www.IndianFarmClass.com or call 1-888-233-5506

Actively Engaged

FSA wants to remind producers about the rules that govern the requirements to be 'actively engaged' in farming. These rules apply to eligibility for payments under the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program (DCP) or Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program administered by FSA.

Normally the stockholder or a member of a legal entity **must** make contributions of active personal labor and/or active personal management for the farming operation. The contributions are to be performed on regular basis, must be identifiable, and separate from the contributions of others.

The exception to this rule for a stockholder or member of a legal entity only occurs if both of the following apply:

- At least half of the interest in the legal entity is held by stockholders or members who are providing active personal labor or active personal management; and
- The total direct payments received, both directly and indirectly, by the legal entity and each of the members don't exceed \$40,000.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ United States citizen or a legal resident alien (or permanent resident of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)
 - ✓ 10 years to 20 years of age
 - ✓ Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
 - ✓ Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
 - ✓ Unable to get a loan from other sources
 - ✓ Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work
 - ✓ Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor.
 - ✓ The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

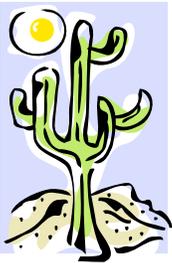
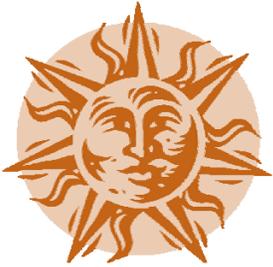
Disaster Assistance

The Farm Service Agency has programs available to assist producers who have experienced damage from natural disasters recently.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) and the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

Contact the local FSA county office for details.



Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities.

For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders.

If producers or their spouses believe they would qualify as socially disadvantaged, they should contact their local FSA office for details. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Commodity Loan Rates Nez Perce County:

WheatSoft White	\$3.00
Wheat Hard Red Spring	\$3.59
Wheat Hard Red Winter	\$3.42
Barley(per bushel)	\$2.20
Canola (cwt)	\$8.18
Corn (bu)	\$2.27
Mustard (cwt)	\$9.59
Oats (bu)	\$1.32
Rapeseed (cwt)	\$10.08
Lentils (cwt)	\$11.85
Dry Peas (cwt)	\$6.57
Small Garbanzo Beans (cwt)	\$7.43
Large Garbanzo Beans (cwt)	\$11.28



Fall Crop Insurance

USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds producers of important 2012 crop year Federal Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) sales closing dates and changes to fall planted crop programs.

Winter coverage for Austrian Winter Dry Peas in Benewah County was added which provides winter protection for dry peas in Benewah, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties.

If there is no coverage filed in a county for a specific crop under the traditional MPCI

program, producers are encouraged to ask a crop insurance agent whether they would be eligible for coverage under a written agreement.

Marofat peas or grapes in Nez Perce County are good examples of crops that may be covered with a written agreement.

Coverage for the Forage (Alfalfa) Seed Pilot can be provided via written agreement in counties outside the current pilot area of Idaho: Canyon and Owyhee counties. Producers wishing to insure alfalfa seed should submit their requests for written agreement through an insurance agent by September 30, 2011.

RMA also reminds Idaho producers of the 2012 crop year sales closing deadlines:

Canola/Rapeseed (for Fall Planted types)	Aug. 31, 2011
Forage (Alfalfa) Seed Pilot (all Idaho by written agreement, Oregon, Washington counties)	Sept. 30, 2011
Fall Planted Barley with Winter Coverage – (Nez Perce County)	Sept. 30, 2011
Fall Planted Dry Peas Lentils with Winter Coverage (Benewah, Clearwater, Lewis, Idaho, Latah and Nez Perce Counties)	Sept. 30, 2011
Wheat	Sept. 30, 2011
Apiculture (Honey)	Sept. 30, 2011
Pasture Rangeland Forage -	Sept. 30, 2011

RMA reminds producers of the important link between Federal crop insurance and Farm Service Agency (FSA) disaster programs. For non-insurable crops, a producer may buy coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program by the closing date. For further information about timetables, please contact the local FSA County Office.

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2012 crop year. Federal crop insurance program policies are sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance companies and agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers throughout the RMA Web site at www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents.

Selected Interest Rates for August 2011

2011 Commodity Loans (MAL)	1.125%
90-Day Treasury Bill	.125%
Farm Operating - Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership - Direct	4.625%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership - Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.5%
Farm Storage Facility (7-year)	2.25%
Emergency	5.00%

Dates to Remember

15 days to file NAP Notice of Loss	
30 days to file CCD Honeybee Notice of Loss	
Sept. 30	Fall Seeded NAP Signup Ends
Sept. 30	Grass Seed NAP Signup Ends